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A
DISSERTATION
CONCERNING
MISLETOE.



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A
DISSERTATION

CONCERNING

MISLETOE:

A most Wonderful SPECIFICK
REMEDY for the Cure of *Convul-*
sive Distempers.

Calculated for the Benefit of the Poor as
well as the Rich, and heartily recommended
for the Common Good of Mankind.

THE SECOND EDITION.

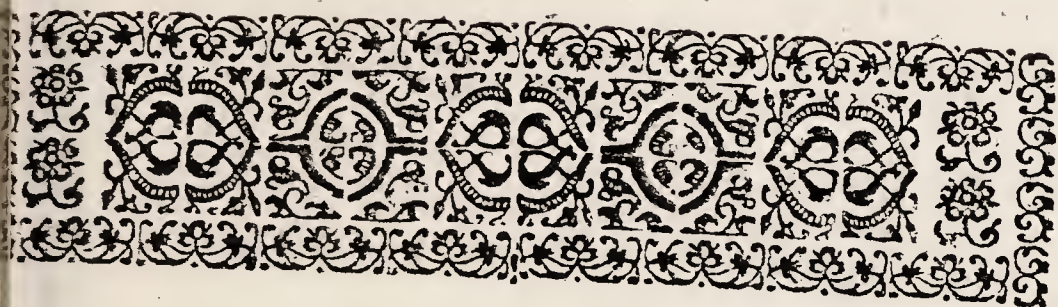
To which is added,
A SECOND PART, containing farther
Remarks and Observations.

By Sir JOHN COLBATCH,
A Member of the College of Physicians.


L O N D O N,

Printed for A. C. and sold by JAMES ROBERTS
in *Warwick-Lane.* M. DCC. XX.





THE
PREFACE

 Have been many
Years a Debtor to
the World, and since
I have not as yet been
able to pay off my old Scores,
my own Satisfaction, the
following Dissertation comes
out by way of Composition:
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which I hope will be accepted in part of Payment, till the original Debt can be discharged.

That this comes out alone, is from an Impression that I have had upon my Spirits for some Weeks past, that it would be highly criminal in me to let another Mistletoe Season pass, without informing the World what a Treasure God Almighty has every Year presented to their View; and that no body, at least very few, have received any Benefit from it.

The Article of *Convulsions* in the Bills of Mortality of this great City, is by much the largest

largest of any, very commonly amounting to about a fifth Part of the whole ; and, as I have been credibly inform'd, happens principally amongst Infant Children : from whence it seems plain, that a Generous Anti-Convulsive Remedy is wanting. I have publish'd the Noble Qualities of this Wonderful Medicine, in the most plain and familiar manner, that thereby it may be render'd of more publick Use ; and I am not without the greatest Hopes that People of all Ranks will receive Benefit from it.

I hope I shall not be blamed for the Earnestness of my Recommendation.

commendation of this Neglected, but Extraordinary Plant ; because my only Aim in so doing, is to press People to the Use of that, which every Family may one time or other receive Advantage from.

The Performance is rough and unpolished ; but I have chosen rather to suffer Reproach upon that account, than let another Season slip, which I am satisfied would be to the Detriment of many.





A
 DISSERTATION
 CONCERNING
MISLETOE.



HAVING some Years since
 had a very terrible Instance
 of an Epileptical Case in one
 that was most near and dear
 to me, and which baffled all Endeavours
 that were used for his Recovery ;
 it occasion'd me many sad and serious
 Reflections upon the Subject. As he
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was daily before my Eyes, so his Distress made the more sensible Impressions upon me. I had recourse to the most celebrated Remedies recommended in all Ages, and the Assistance of my Friends most Eminent in their Profession.

Four or five Years were spent in fruitless Attempts, he every Year growing worse and worse, till at last he became Cataleptick: he would be seiz'd as he was standing, and continue in that posture like a lifeless Statue, without Sense or Motion. When he was so seiz'd, he was constantly laid upon a Bed or Couch; his Fit would last some Hours; but I am confident, that had he been let alone, he would have continued in the same posture in which he was seiz'd, during the whole time of the Fit.

Being one day upon a Journey, I saw some Hazle-Trees plentifully stock'd with Mistletoe. It immediately enter'd into my Mind, that there must
be

be something extraordinary in that uncommon beautiful Plant ; that the Almighty had design'd it for farther and more noble Uses, than barely to feed Thrushes, or to be hung up superstitiously in Houses to drive away evil Spirits ; and that the Mistletoe that grew upon other Trees, was capable of being as serviceable to Mankind, as that which grew upon the Oak.

Amongst many other Authors that have wrote concerning the Epilepsy, I had lately read *Marcus Marci*, his *Liturgia Mentis* ; the most satisfactory Treatise upon the Subject, as to Theory, that I have met with, and indeed to lay a Foundation for a Physician to practise rationally in the Cure of all Convulsive Distempers.

Having made the most strict Inquiry into the Nature of Mistletoe that I was capable of, I concluded, *a priori*, That it was a Medicine very likely to subdue not only the Epilepsy, but all

other Convulsive Disorders, upon the foot of *Marcus Marci's* Hypothesis, I mean the ordinary and common Mistletoe. The Praises of Mistletoe of the Oak had been proclaim'd for many Ages past, and none else esteem'd or regarded, as to any Medicinal Virtue.

The Youth before mentioned had indeed taken Mistletoe in small quantities in the *Pulvis de Guttetâ*, and other Compound Remedies recommended in Epileptical Cases; but when I reflected that Mistletoe was but one Ingredient amongst a *Farrago* of others, there was no determining from the Effects of those Medicines, whether Mistletoe were capable of doing any thing towards the conquering of so *Herculean* a Distemper.

In reading the scatter'd and imperfect Accounts of the *Druids*, formerly Priests and Philosophers in this Island and other neighbouring Countries, who were had in the highest Veneration by People of all Ranks; I conjectur'd

jectur'd that this Veneration in great measure proceeded from the wonderful Cures they wrought by means of the Mistletoe of the Oak: this Tree being sacred to them, but none so, that had not Mistletoe upon them; which Consideration also further prompted me to try common Mistletoe in its utmost extent. After I had seen some of its amazing Effects, I concluded that it was from this Divine Remedy that they had almost Divine Honours paid them.

But Mistletoe of the Oak being the only Mistletoe recommended as good for any thing, I was in great Straits how to procure a quantity of it; for I did not remember in all my Travels to have seen any of it: so amongst all my Acquaintance, from that time to this, I do not know that I have met with above two that have.

This put me upon considering whether or no the Mistletoe receiv'd any Advantage from the Tree upon which
it

it grew, or whether all Mistletoe were not the same.

After my Thoughts had been some time employ'd upon this Subject, I concluded that the Mistletoe of the Crab, the Lime, the Pear, or any other Tree, were of equal Virtue with that of the Oak, for the following Reasons ; and which has been confirm'd to me since by large Experience, which is beyond every thing else.

Now suppose that the Mistletoe of the Oak does surpass that of all other Trees ; yet from ten Years large Experience I find the ordinary Mistletoe to be the most Noble Medicine I ever knew : and since it's every where to be had, at least in this Island, it ought to be esteem'd as a great Blessing ; and if the other excel it, those that are capable of procuring it, ought to esteem it accordingly.

But if the Mistletoe were in any manner produced from the Tree upon which it grows, as the Gaul is from
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the Oak; then it might reasonably be expected that it should partake of the Quality of the Tree that produces it, as the Gaul does, having the same stiptick Qualities with the Acorn, or the Bark of the Tree. But as it's propagated by the way of Inoculating, or Grafting, it's quite otherwise.

An Apricock or a Peach grafted upon a Plumb-Stock, or a fine Apple or Pear upon a Crab-Tree one, will not produce Plumbs or Crabs, but Apricocks and Peaches, and fine Pears and Apples.

As far as I can learn, Mistletoe is commonly propagated after the following manner: There is a Bird generally known by the Name of the Mistletoe Thrush; which Name, I suppose, it derives from its feeding upon Mistletoe Berries during the Winter-Season. From the Pulp of the Berries it is nourished, but the Seeds are discharged with the Excrement undigested. Now the Excrement being of a slimy nature,

nature, sticks fast to the Branches of the Trees upon which it falls ; and if there be any Crack in the Bark, there the Seed lodges itself, and produces a Plant the next Year. The Excrement being of the nature of Birdlime, and Birdlime, as it's said, being to be made of the Berries of the Plant ; I suppose gave rise to that very old Saying, That *Turdus cacat in sui Excidium*.

It has been often propagated by cutting a Slit into the Bark of a Tree, and sticking in a Seed. I have been told of one that has adorn'd his Trees with it, to make them delightful in the Winter-Season ; and surely a more beautiful Plant can scarce be seen.

Pliny says, That it is apt to exhaust and wear out the Tree upon which it grows ; in which I am inclined to believe he was mistaken. The Reason, I suppose, that induc'd him to be of that Opinion, was, That it most frequently grows upon old Trees. Now I conclude, that it more frequently
grows

grows upon them than young ones, because the Twigs and Branches of the old Trees are more liable to Cracks and Accidents than young ones are : and being most commonly seen upon old Trees, he from thence concluded that they were worn out by it.

There seems however to be a Difference betwixt this Plant, and all other Trees propagated by Grafting or Inoculating ; they being most certainly intirely nourished by the Juice of the Stock into which they are inserted : notwithstanding which, as is before observ'd, they change the Nature of the Juice, brought up by the Stock, into their own. But whether Mistletoe receives its full Nourishment from the Juice of the Tree, seems to me a Doubt. It's true, it continues alive during the Summer, but it does not begin to flourish and appear in Vigour, till the Sap of the Tree is fallen, or otherwise spent, and the Leaves dropt. Its Berries are full ripe, and

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in perfection, about the latter end of *December* ; and the more rigorous and severe the *Weather* is, the more vigorous and flourishing is the *Mistletoe*. Now considering that the Sap or nutritious Juice of the *Tree* is at this time in a manner spent, I am inclin'd to conjecture that it derives its principal Support from the *Air*. I have had some thoughts that it was no hard matter to try by easy Experiments, whether this be so or not ; but being confined to the *Town*, I have wanted Conveniences of so doing.

How it thrives in hot Countries, or whether it ever grows upon those *Trees* that never cast their *Leaves*, I am ignorant.

Of all the antient Authors that take notice of it, which I have read, *Pliny* in his *Natural History* seems to be most full ; but what he says is little to the purpose : and almost every body else recommends *Mistletoe* of the *Oak* in *Epileptical Cases*, but none of them
give

give Directions how even that should be used in a rational manner.

Amongst the Moderns, the Honourable Mr. Boyle, in the second Part of his *Usefulness of Experimental Philosophy*, pag. 174. gives the following Relation.

‘ A young Lady of great Birth
 ‘ having been long troubled with an
 ‘ almost Hereditary Epileptical Dis-
 ‘ temper, and after having been wea-
 ‘ ried by Courses of Physick prescrib’d
 ‘ her by the famousest Doctors that
 ‘ could be procured, without mend-
 ‘ ing at all, but rather growing worse;
 ‘ so that sometimes she would have in
 ‘ one day eight or ten of such dismal
 ‘ Fits as you and I have seen her in;
 ‘ was cured only by the Powder of
 ‘ the true Mistletoe of the Oak, given
 ‘ as much as would lie upon a Sixpence,
 ‘ early in the Morning, in Black-
 ‘ Cherry Water, or even in Beer, for
 ‘ some days near the full Moon. And
 ‘ I am assured, partly by the Patient
 C 2 ‘ herself,

‘ herself, and partly by those that
 ‘ gave her the Medicine, that though
 ‘ it had scarce any sensible Operation
 ‘ upon her, and did not make her
 ‘ sickish, especially when she slept upon
 ‘ it; yet after the first day she took
 ‘ it, she never had but one Fit. And
 ‘ this Remedy an antient Gentleman,
 ‘ who being casually present when she
 ‘ suddenly fell down as dead, gave it
 ‘ her, profess’d himself constantly to
 ‘ have cured that Distemper with it,
 ‘ when he could procure the right Sim-
 ‘ ple, which is here exceeding scarce.
 ‘ And what further Experiments some
 ‘ Friends of yours have successfully
 ‘ made, I may elsewhere have occa-
 ‘ sion to relate.’

My most worthy Friend Dr. Cole,
 encouraged by the common Voice of
 Antiquity, and being farther prompted
 to it by this Relation of Mr. Boyle,
 was induced to try what it would do
 upon a Patient that fell into his hands
 by the Death of his former Physician,
 who

who for three Months had in vain been attempting his Cure. He relates the Case and the Circumstances of his Cure as follows.

‘ A certain Youth of a sprightly
 ‘ Genius, of about fifteen Years of
 ‘ Age, who at first had laboured under a Fever, from which he was perfectly freed, was soon after attack’d
 ‘ with an Epileptical Fit, which was
 ‘ about three Months since: after a
 ‘ few days another, and after that with
 ‘ many, but without any regular Periods. These Fits had so affected
 ‘ his Nerves, and brought such a
 ‘ Weakness upon all his Joints, that
 ‘ he could not walk without difficulty,
 ‘ nor lift the Weight of a few Ounces
 ‘ with his Hands, nor hold a Pen to
 ‘ write withal, in which he before excelled. To this Youth various Remedies having before been given
 ‘ without success, I prescribed a Vom
 ‘ mit of Salt of Vitriol; then a Purge
 ‘ or two with some Calomel. After-
 ‘ wards

‘ wards I took care that Mistletoe of
 ‘ the Oak should be given him twice
 ‘ a day, with some Cephalick Vehicle ;
 ‘ and the Apothecary had procured
 ‘ the Mistletoe that was genuine : (Hap-
 ‘ py he ! for to this time I could ne-
 ‘ ver procure any.) Proceeding in
 ‘ this order, his Fits never returned.
 ‘ The Mistletoe being continued to
 ‘ this time, he sensibly perceived a
 ‘ gradual Restoration of the Strength
 ‘ of all the Parts ; so that he could
 ‘ now not only walk, but run, and
 ‘ write elegantly, of which I was an
 ‘ Eye-witness. So that I have reason
 ‘ to hope, that from the continued
 ‘ Use of this Medicine, he may be per-
 ‘ fectly freed from his Illness, &c.’

The good Doctor was one of those
 that afforded his utmost Assistance to
 the distressed Youth before mentioned ;
 but no Mistletoe of the Oak being to
 be procured, all other Mistletoe was
 looked upon as despicable ; and the
 reason why the *Pulvis de Gutteta* did no
 good,

good, was judg'd to proceed from the Apothecaries making use of common Mistletoe in the Composition of it, instead of that of the Oak. But be that as it will, and let the Difference be ever so great, the quantity of Mistletoe in that Composition is so small, as to render it of no effect. And as for the Mistletoe contained in the Anti-Epileptick Waters, the great *Zwelfer* has remarked, that it will not yield any of its Virtues by ordinary Distillation.

Mistletoe of the Oak not being to be obtain'd, I furnish'd myself with a large quantity of that of the Lime; the Trees in one of the Parks at *Hampton-Court* affording great Plenty, at least they did so at that time. I order'd it to be gather'd at the latter end of *December*: The Leaves, Berries, and very tender Twigs, I got dried over a Baker's Oven, where there was a constant gentle Heat, and then had it made into very fine Powder, to be put into a Glass cover'd with
Bladder

Bladder or Leather, and kept in a very dry Place. If it be not kept close and dry, it will contract a Dampness, grow mouldy, and be good for nothing : If it be scorched by the Fire in drying, it will also be spoil'd, and of no effect.

The larger Stalks must also be carefully dry'd and preserved, for Decoc-tions and Infusions.

Furnish'd with my Medicine, though of no Reputation, not being suspended upon the Oak ; I was very impatient to see the Effect of it, and immediately went to work with it.

The distressed Youth had for five Years been labouring in vain, and every Month grew worse and worse ; so that his Constitution both of Body and Mind was spoil'd to such a degree, that I could not be so presumptuous as to hope for a Cure : The utmost I could wish for, was some Relief, and to render the Remainder of his Life someway comfortable to him.

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From being one of the sprightliest of Youths at Twelve Years of Age, at Seventeen he was a perfect Mope, a most melancholy Spectacle both in and out of his Fits. However, bad as he was, having carefully inquired into the Nature of my Medicine, I went to work with it: I was sure it could do him no hurt, if it did him no good.

His Fits in the beginning kept pace with the Moon, he rarely having any but about the New or the Full; but in Tract of Time he had them at all Seasons: so I began with him, without any regard to that Affair.

From the first I gave him half a Dram of the Powder, made into a Bolus with Syrup of Pioneys, every six Hours; and after it a large Draught of a strong Infusion of the Stalks bruised, and sweetned with Syrup of Pioneys.

To my great surprize he had not one Fit from the time he began to take

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this Glorious Medicine, for a Month or more, and never one Cataleptick Fit to the day of his Death. He continued to take it on for three Years, but after some Months, only Night and Morning ; and in the main, during that whole Space, he enjoy'd his Health tolerably well. But as his Memory had been almost intirely lost by the former Five-Years Calamity, so it was not judg'd proper to set him to any sort of hard Study, or employ him in any Business that should give him any trouble : Upon which score it was thought necessary to send him into the Country, to a good Air, with one constantly to keep him company, and to secure him against Accidents:

There he lived, with great Comfort to himself, and Pleasure to those he convers'd with ; and was sometimes capable of applying himself to his Studies. He would now and then have a Fit, but sometimes not one in three Months ; and those Fits he had, very

very favourable ones, which he had always Warnings of before-hand, so that he could be trusted on horseback.

At last he was taken ill in a manner different from what he had formerly been, and died in about four and twenty Hours. I could not see him after he was dead, but desired that his Head should be open'd; having great reason to believe, that the beginning of his Illness proceeded from an unfortunate Blow upon the left Temple, in which Part he would often complain of great Pain, especially in the first part of his Illness, before he became stupid. And the Account I had of that matter, was, That there was a blackish Spot upon the *Dura Mater*, of the bigness of a Shilling, just under the *Os Temporis*.

It's true here was no Cure, neither could I expect one: I had the utmost Success I could reasonably propose to myself, which was to render the short Remains of a miserable Life com-

fortable and easy : And by so doing, to have a reasonable Opportunity of introducing to the World a most Glorious and Useful Medicine ; which has one peculiar Property attending it, That it is capable of doing the greatest Good in the most formidable of Diseases, and, I dare say, will never do any Hurt.

The Jesuits Bark is a most Noble Medicine in Fevers regularly intermitting, and in some other Cases : but I have frequently known the Misapplication of it, of terrible and fatal consequence. But for Mistletoe, I dare engage for it, that it will never hurt any one ; and tho it be so innocent, yet it will frequently cure Diseases, that in appearance (as the Great *Dr. Willis* represents them, in his Description of the Epilepsy, in his *Tract de Morbis Convulsivis*) do not much differ from those we read of in the Gospels, that were cured by the Redeemer of the World, the Eternal Son of God : But
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his Cures were wrought by a Word, and not by Medicines. Glory be to him, that in the absence of himself has created such Medicines for the Relief of the Distressed, as this I am treating of!

No one can think that I am so far divested of Reason, as to recommend this Medicine in the manner I do, there not being the least Prospect of Advantage to myself in it; but that I am sure of its Effects, from thorough Experience, and that I have all imaginable Reason to believe that it will prove of general Advantage to the World: there not being a Family, to which it may not at one time or other be of the greatest Use.

I have many times known about a Scruple of the Powder, mix'd with a little Black-Cherry Water, restore Children that have been agonized with the most exquisite Convulsions that can be conceived; but then it has been repeated in less quantity very often,

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till they were perfectly well. I hardly ever knew it given to Children without advantage : A Cure is not always to be expected, but Relief is a great Blessing in such miserable Diseases.

It's good in their Gripes, either to obtund the Acrimony of the Bile or Pancreatick Juices ; and if they will not take it any other way, may be given in their Pap, Pannadoe, or Breast-Milk. Even to Infants there can be no Error in giving them too much, but the more they take, the better ; it being of a nourishing Quality, and no ways hot, or in the least tending to throw them into a Fever ; nay, is rather of itself a Febrifuge. I have often found it of great use in the dismal slow Fevers, attended with Convulsive Symptoms.

I have never, through the Course of my Practice, seen but two Persons labouring under that frightful Distemper called the *Chorea Sancti Vitis*, or St. Vites's Dance ; or at least that might be
truly

truly called so. The first was before I knew the Use of Mistletoe : She had the Assistance of other Physicians besides me ; but in spite of all that could be done, she died miserably.

About three Years since, the second, a Girl of about Seven Years of Age, was brought to me. Every Muscle of her seem'd to be convuls'd ; if she were upon her Feet, she was always dancing, and throwing her Arms about ; the Muscles of her Face would be variously distorted, and her Head moving backward or forward, or from side to side, so as to be a most moving Object of Compassion. If she were in Bed, she was under the same Circumstances ; one being obliged to be constantly by her, to keep the Clothes upon her, and she had no Sleep. She took about two Drams of the Powder every day, and by that time she had taken twelve or fourteen Ounces, she was made perfectly well, and so continues. She grew better by that time she

She had taken it two days, and in a manner well in about a Fortnight: but I order'd the Continuance of the Medicine, till she had taken the quantity before-mention'd, to secure her against Returns.

I have an intimate Acquaintance, an excellent Gentlewoman, who had labour'd under Convulsive Disorders for twenty Years, and did not want the best Advice; her Life was render'd thoroughly miserable: But by the Use of the Powder of Mistletoe for a Year or two, she is become perfectly well, enjoying the Comfort of Life as much as any one does.

I have known so many Instances, both in Young and Old, in Rich and Poor of both Sexes, some of whom had been many Years afflicted with Epilepsies, and other Convulsive Disorders, that have been either cured or received Benefit from this Divine Remedy; that I think myself bound in Conscience to divulge the Use of it to
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the World ; since, as I have before observ'd, it is capable of doing greater things than ever I knew perform'd by any one Remedy, and I think it incapable of doing any Hurt.

Another principal Reason that has induced me to it, is for the sake of the Poor, the Meanest being able to procure it as well as the Rich, and that it wants little or no Skill in the Administration of it.

Whilst the Virtues of Mistletoe were confin'd to that of the Oak only, it was of little or no Use to the World, as not being to be procured. I have been five and thirty Years a diligent Searcher after it, but never could yet see one Sprig ; and as I have before observ'd, have never met with above two that had. If the common Mistletoe that is to be met with in every County of our Fortunate Island, is capable of doing as great things, as have ever been recorded of the Mistle-

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toe of the Oak ; I shall have that Pleasure and Satisfaction of Mind, which generally redounds to those that have the Happiness of being Benefactors to the Age they live in, which I have in every Part and Circumstance of Life endeavour'd.

But if from the common Voice of all Ages, and the modern Instances I have produced, Mistletoe of the Oak must still be prefer'd ; I do not doubt but every Oak in *England* may be made to produce Mistletoe by the Method I have before propos'd. And perhaps the *Druids* took that Method to propagate it upon such Oaks as were for their turn. And when that can be had in plenty, it will be no great difficulty to distinguish whether it excels or not : But I am really of opinion, that all Mistletoe is the same, for the Reasons before alledg'd.

In this Dissertation I have carefully avoided entring into the Reason why Mistletoe is so excellent a Remedy in
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Epilepsies, and of consequence in all other Convulsive Distempers; but recommend it to the Use of the World from the large Experience I have had of it, which is the same way that the famous *Peruvian* Bark was usher'd in: and perhaps the Experience of future Practitioners may make that matter more clear, than at present I am capable of doing. Nay, should I attempt it, it would swell the Bulk, and of consequence the Price of this Dissertation, and be of no advantage to the ordinary sort of People, whose Benefit by this Publication I propose as much as the Rich.

I began with it upon a Rational Foundation, and the Success has answer'd my Expectation, even to my Amazement in some Instances. I don't doubt but others will try whether what I have said be true; and when they see that it answers their Expectations also, I hope it will exercise the fine Genius's of the Age, to draw

Consequences from it, that may be of great use.

As the Bark does sometimes want an Auxiliary, to enable it entirely to overcome an obstinate Quartan Ague; so I have sometimes found that Mistletoe has done better in some obstinate old Epilepsies, with the assistance of an Auxiliary, than alone.

A Dram of *Sal Martis* added to an Ounce of the Bark, will make that Ounce more effectually to cure an inveterate Quartan, than six times the quantity of the Bark alone will do without it: So I have sometimes known a Dram of *Assa-fœtida* added to an Ounce of the Mistletoe-Powder, and made into an Electuary, make it act much more powerfully than alone.

Gentle Purging, and sometimes Bleeding, are useful before the giving of the Mistletoe: but I have been for some Years afraid of giving Vomits, even of the gentlest sort, in Convulsive Distempers, from some terrible
Acci-

Accidents that have been like to ensue from moderate Doses of Ipecacuana itself; the safest, and perhaps the best Vomit, that ever was made known to the World, barely as a Vomit to cleanse the Stomach.

If the Plant be not dry'd, powder'd and preserved in the manner I have directed, there is scarce any other way of keeping it, but that it will be render'd intirely useless. This I desire may be carefully observ'd by every body.

I don't doubt but even Mistletoe of the Oak itself, or what People have called so, has often unsuccessfully been given, from not being gather'd in right time; or if it has been so, either ill-dried, or not carefully preserv'd afterwards.

From the Hints I have given, I hope others will be disposed to try this Medicine to a further Extent than I have been able to do: I have been cramp'd in it, because it was not to
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be had in more than two Apothecaries Shops, that I could depend upon for its being regularly managed. But for the future, since it will put them but to very small Expence, I hope no Shop in the Kingdom will be without it.

If any one will be so good, as to communicate to me any, either Medicinal or Natural Observations, that they have already, or shall hereafter make, in relation to the Subject here treated of, they shall not fail of my most grateful Acknowledgments.

The End of the First Part.



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Part II.

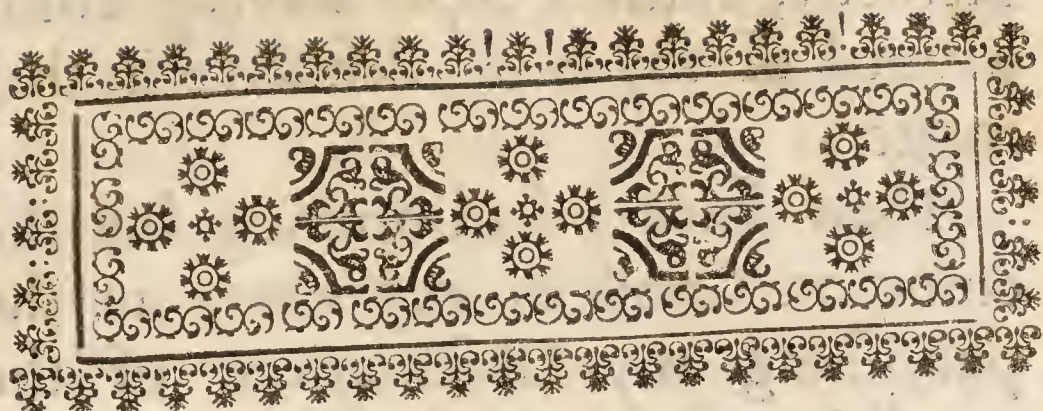
By Sir JOHN COLBATCH,
A Member of the College of Physicians.



L O N D O N,

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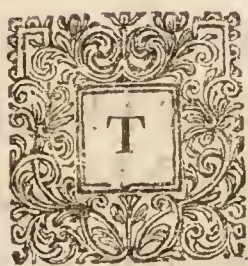




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DISSERTATION

CONCERNING

MISLETOE.

THE Impression of the first Part of the Dissertation concerning Mistletoe having been kindly received, and sold off, and Mr. Churchill designing another Edition, I have thought fit to add some farther Observations, and likewise to be more particular in my Directions for the Use of this amazing

Remedy, some People having complained of my being defective in that matter.

Now since I had nothing but the common Good in my view, in the publishing my Observations of the Qualities of this extraordinary Plant, I shall endeavour to make every thing as plain as I am able. And since the Poor are those whom I chiefly aim at serving, what is farther to be added, I have thought fit to do by itself, that those who have the first, may buy this apart.

It has been no small Grief to me, to observe, that when a Fever has reigned within the Limits of *London* to a greater degree than ever I have known it; when the Bills of Mortality have been at the highest, the Article of Convulsions has been double to that of the Fever.

It is not improbable, but that many of those Convulsions were the Consequences of the Fever. Now,
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supposing that true, I have sometimes observ'd, that Mistletoe being brought in as an Aid, and given in large Quantities, will prevent the Fatality of even those Convulsions.

The far greatest number of Sick, not only in the Country, but even in *London* itself, are committed to the Care of the most ignorant Pretenders: now even these People would most certainly be glad to recover their Patients, for thereby they would establish a Reputation, and secure a Livelihood: For the meanest of these Intruders Mistletoe is a proper Remedy; it costs little, will do no hurt, and, as even they are here instructed in the Use of it, will do eminent Good, and gain them Fame. If it fails of Success, since their Patients are sure not to be sufferers by it, they can receive little Damage.

I have met with three or four in the compass of this Year that Mistletoe has not had the desir'd effect upon ;

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one of which was a young Gentleman whose Fits attack'd him only in his sleep ; (he formerly had had them when he was awake.) The Fits that attack People in their sleep, I have always found most difficult to be overcome, as also to be accounted for : however, I am in my own Mind satisfy'd, that by a long-continu'd use of this Medicine, or by taking it in a different form from what he did, he is still to be made well.

The reason for this my Opinion is, that the Texture of his Brain and Nerves is not yet so far broken, but that they still seem capable of being repaired.

Another of which was a poor Youth of fifteen, who had had the Distemper from his Cradle ; and tho he had his Medicines for nothing, yet he wanted Clothes to secure him against Cold, and I doubt the common Necessaries at home.

His Fits were frequently stav'd off for whole Moons, which had never been known before ; but upon return of cold Weather, for want of being well cloth'd, and other Accidents, the Fits would return again, and so I suppose continue to do : the Carelessness of the Parents having discourag'd me from doing any thing more for him.

A third was a young Gentleman, who had only a Fit or two a Month ; and in his Fits there was something peculiar ; but was not made well in three or four Months : so I left off visiting him, there seeming a sort of uneasiness that he was not free from his Fits in that time.

The fourth was a young Woman about twenty-three, whose good Mother had spent her whole Substance in seven Years attempts to make her well. In the four Months I have had her under my Care, there has been several times an appearance as if she would be made well : but distress of
Mind

Mind from her miserable reduced Circumstances, having before lived well, has, I believe, eluded the force of the Medicine; tho I am still in hopes to recover her, notwithstanding her Case is most miserable.

But these four Instances, where Success has been wanting, are nothing in comparison of the great numbers that have been made well.

I have lately come to the knowledge, that Mistletoe will, with very little trouble, yield its Tincture in Spirit of Wine. But, not to arrogate to myself what is not my due, I shall here declare the way how I came to the knowledge of it, which is as follows.

Mr. *Small* the Surgeon, being in the Shop of Mr. *Riddle* an Apothecary in *Villers-Street*, *York-Buildings*, as they were talking about the wonderful Effects of Mistletoe, Mr. *Small* said, That it was great pity that the Powder was disagreeable to some very nice Stomachs,

machs, as indeed I have sometimes found it to be; he therefore desir'd the other to try whether it would not yield a Tincture in highly rectify'd Spirit of Wine, as the Jesuits Bark and *Virginian* Snake-Root did: If so, he did not see why it might not be more efficacious than the Powder, as the Tinctures of the other two were.

Mr. *Riddle* immediately set about it, and in a quarter of the time that either of the others would emit their Tincture, it afforded a rich and noble one: so he immediately brought me a Bottle of it, with which I was highly delighted.

Several of the Chymical Writers have recommended the Spirit of Mistletoe as an excellent Menstruum to extract a Tincture from Red Coral. Now it being usual for too many of those Authors to publish things upon trust, or the bare Whimsies of their own Brains, I resolv'd to try this Affair myself, and not trust it to any one else.

I filled a glass Retort as full of Mistletoe as it would contain, by cramming of it in. I then put the Retort into a Sand Furnace. For twenty-four Hours I made such a Fire as would heat the Sand well, but not make it red hot: in this time, little or nothing at all came over into the Receiver. It is to be observed, that the Mistletoe was perfectly well dry'd, so that all its aqueous Humidity was gone. Afterwards I augmented the Fire, so as to make the Sand red hot; and from about eight Ounces of Mistletoe, I had near two Ounces of acid Spirit, much about the same Strength, and not much differing in taste from the common Spirit of Vinegar.

What this acid Spirit will do as a Medicine I have not yet tried, but may do it hereafter. This Spirit I poured upon two Drams of red Coral finely powder'd: it immediately fell to work upon the Coral, as any other acid Spirit of the same Strength would do.

do. I let it stand so for some time, without the Assistance of any external Heat. I afterwards put it into the Sand-Furnace, where I kept it about forty eight Hours, in a pretty strong Heat, in a Bolt-Head with a very long Neck, that nothing might evaporate. It had in that time dissolved a good Part of the Coral, as other acid Spirits of the same Strength would do; but extracted nothing out of the Coral, that might be called a Tincture.

From the nicest Observations I have been hitherto able to make, the principal Life and Energy of Mistletoe consists in its Rezin, as does that of the *Peruvian* Bark, and *Virginian* Snake-Root; and therefore by the means of highly rectify'd Spirit of Wine, a Tincture may be extracted from it that contains all or the greatest part of its Virtues.

I am sure that the Tincture of the *Peruvian* Bark, from many Years Experience, will cure an inveterate Quar-

tan Ague, better and more effectually than the Powder will do. Now when the Tincture is extracted from the Bark, what remains is no better than Saw-Dust, which can never be digested by a human Stomach, and may lodge there, and in the *Plicæ* of the Guts, and do much mischief: But with the Powder of Mistletoe it is not so, it being of a more lax and mucilaginous nature, and therefore can lodge no where to do hurt.

But it's not improbable that that Mucilage which is in the Powder, and hinders it from doing hurt, may so envelope the resinous active Part of it, as sometimes to hinder its doing that Good, which it will do alone, when dissolved in Spirit of Wine.

Observe, that Spirit of Wine highly rectify'd, will no more touch the mucilaginous Part of the Mistletoe, than it will the Saw-dust Part of the *Peruvian Bark*.

I am now fully convinced, that
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Mistletoe is almost, if not altogether, as certain a Specifick in the Cure of Epilepsies, and other convulsive Distempers, as the Bark is in curing Intermitting Fevers ; and so, thanks to Providence, we have another Specifick.

In old and obstinate Quartan Agues, the Bark will not overcome them without Difficulty, and Length of time ; and sometimes not at all, without the Assistance of the Salt of Steel, and some other Helps : and after all, upon any Irregularity, or taking Cold, the Ague will return with as great Violence as ever.

So it is in old inveterate Epilepsies, and other convulsive Distempers, Mistletoe alone will not sometimes take place, but wants the Assistance of *Assa Fætida*, and sometimes of other things ; which things, by themselves, would prove of no effect at all. Upon Accidents, or Cold-taking, the Distemper will be apt to return ; as it is with obstinate Quartans.

If it sometimes happens to fail in the curing of old, inveterate Epilepsies, that may proceed from the Texture of the Brain and Nerves being so broken and destroy'd, as never to be able to admit of being repaired. This is no Argument against the Medicine's being a Specifick for the Cure of the Distemper in general, as it most certainly is, and will even do good to the Incurable.

But in recent Epilepsies, and even the *St. Vitis's* Dance itself, it will, as far as I have seen, as certainly cure, as the Bark will a Quartan Ague; and is therefore by much the greater Remedy, by how much the one Disease is greater and more formidable than the other. But as it is so, a much greater Space of time is necessarily required for the extirpating of it, than of the other.

In Consumptive Cases, proceeding from a Decay of the Lungs, or any of the Noble Parts, it's very common

to see, during the time that Matter is forming, a regular Paroxysm of a Fever, so exactly resembling that of a common Ague, that no one thing can be more like another; beginning first with a cold shivering Rigour, after that with a hot burning Fit, and when that is gone off, with profuse Sweats.

The Bark will rarely fail to stave off these Fits for a time, but would never, that I could yet observe, prevent their Return; and when they have return'd, it has been with greater Violence, and I fear with worse Consequence to the Patient, than if it had never been given. I am inclin'd to think I can assign a Reason for it; but that does not belong to this Place.

It very commonly happens, that Epilepsies, and other Convulsive Disorders, are not original Diseases, but Symptoms and Consequences of some other Distemper or Accident.

As for instance, Worms corroding the most sensible Membranes of the
Guts,

Guts, impassible Stones in the Ureters, wounded Nerves and Tendons, &c.

Mistletoe will frequently relieve People under all these Circumstances, but will not cure them : But that may be said of this, which cannot be said of the Bark, that if it does not cure them, it will do no hurt. By the means of it both Physicians and Surgeons may gain time, which is a thing of the greatest consequence : (*Qui dat Tempus, dat Vitam.*) By which means the greatest Diseases, and most terrible Accidents, may sometimes be overcome.

I shall here give an account of a couple of Cases which have fallen in my way, since the publishing of the First Part of this *Dissertation*, and very extraordinary ones they are.

‘ About the middle of *December*, a
 ‘ very worthy Man in the City brought
 ‘ his Son to me, an only Child, of
 ‘ about eight Years of Age. About

a Year and a half before, he had the Confluent Small-Pox: Soon after the Small-Pox was over, he was attack'd with Epileptick Fits. The Father immediately had recourse to a Physician of Eminence; he not succeeding, he applied to another, and so to a third: but whatever was done had no effect, for he every day grew worse and worse; so that at last his Parents determin'd to give him no more Medicines, despairing of a Cure. Notwithstanding which, upon the Father's reading the *Dissertation upon Mistletoe*, he alter'd his Mind, and immediately brought the Child to me.

It was as melancholy a Spectacle as could be beheld. From being a Child of lively Temper, and quick Understanding, he was become stupid. When he had no Fit upon him, his Muscles were always in Motion. If he were sitting, he would dart himself out of his Chair, like an Arrow out of a Bow,

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hitting his Head against the Wall, or any thing else that was before him, so that they were forced to have one always with him, for fear he should dash out his Brains, or dart himself into the Fire, and destroy himself that way.

I prescrib'd for him as follows :

‘ Take of the Powder of Mistletoe,
 ‘ dried in the manner before directed,
 ‘ an Ounce ; Assa Foetida, a Dram ;
 ‘ Syrup of Pionies, a sufficient Quan-
 ‘ tity to make an Electuary.’

Of this I order'd him to take the Quantity of a Nutmeg, first in the Morning, at five in the Afternoon, and last at Night, and to drink after each Dose a Draught of the following Infusion.

‘ Take of the whole Plant, Leaves,
 ‘ Berries, small Twigs and large ones,
 ‘ grossly bruis'd in a Mortar, four
 ‘ Ounces ;

‘ Ounces ; of the Flowers of red Pionies, one Handful ; boiling Water, a full Quart : Infuse in a Pot close stopt by the Fire-side, for two Hours ; then strain out, and sweeten with two Ounces of Syrup of Pionies.’

For a Month, or some thing more, he found little or no Benefit ; nay sometimes the Fits would be more frequent and violent than they had been before : however this did not discourage the honest Parents, but on they proceeded, and had their Wishes and Expectations effectually answer'd. When he began to mend, he sensibly grew better every day, and by the end of *March* was perfectly recover'd, as brisk in his Temper, and as quick in his Understanding, as any Child, I think, I ever saw in my Life.

For Security sake, I desir'd that he might take the Medicines Night and Morning for two or three Months longer, which was readily comply'd

with; and he has never had a Fit since.

Mistletoe generally keeps the Body open; but when it does not do it, it is necessary once in three or four Days to give some very gentle lenitive Medicine; but never any strong Purge, which always does mischief in Epileptical Cases.

It always kept this Child regularly open, so he had never any thing given him, from beginning to end, but what is here mentioned.

I own, that when I first saw this Child, I did apprehend his Case to be so very desperate, that I did not think it possible for him ever to be made perfectly well; but thro God's Mercy, I was deceived.

On the twenty seventh Day of *December*, I was sent for to a most beautiful young Lady of about eleven Years of Age, whose Circumstances were most deplorable. She had the *St. Vitis's* Dance in as extreme a manner, as,
per-

perhaps ever any one had : I had never seen any thing before like it.

Her Understanding was greatly impair'd ; such a Faultring in her Speech, that she could scarce speak a Word, so as to be understood. All the Muscles of her Body were continually convulsed, both in Bed and up. She could neither stand, nor use her Hands so much as to feed herself. For three or four Nights in the Week she would never sleep at all, but pass the whole Nights in the most hideous Shrieks and Lamentations.

She was attack'd about three Years before with slight Epileptical Fits ; upon which her tender Mother sent for as able and honest a Physician as any of the Faculty. I am sure he treated her with the utmost Compassion and Care ; however all his Attempts proved ineffectual, for want of being thoroughly acquainted with this glorious Specifick. The Disease got ground of him, till it arriv'd

arriv'd to the Height before-mention'd, in spite of all he could do.

When I was called in, I earnestly press'd that the former Physician might be continu'd, but that was refus'd ; so I went on in the following manner.

I shall recite the whole in *English*, that the meanest Capacity may comprehend it.

It is to be observed in this young Lady, that in less than a Week there were manifest Signs of her growing better.

December 27. 1718. I order'd as follows :

‘ Powder of Mistletoe, a Scruple ;
 ‘ Syrup of Pionies, a sufficient Quantity to make a Bolus, to be taken
 ‘ every Six Hours ; drinking after each
 ‘ six or seven Spoonfuls of the following Infusion :

‘ The whole Mistletoe, bruised as
 ‘ is before directed, three Ounces ;
 ‘ Piony

‘ Piony-Flowers, half a Handful ;
 ‘ Boiling-Water, twenty Ounces : In-
 ‘ fuse in a Pot close stopt, by the
 ‘ Fire-side, for an Hour ; then strain
 ‘ out. To the strain’d Liquor add
 ‘ Compound Piony-Water, and Sy-
 ‘ rup of Pionies, of each an Ounce.’

Twenty Ninth, I order’d the follow-
 ing Purge ; and as soon as that had
 done working, to proceed in the Use
 of the Bolus and Infusion. And for an
 Aid, to give her the most speedy Relief
 possible under her miserable Circum-
 stances, I directed Plasters for her Feet,
 which I have frequently known to be
 of great use in Disorders of the Head
 and Nerves.

The Purging Infusion.

‘ Take of the Decoctum Sennæ
 ‘ Gereonis, two Ounces ; Manna, half
 ‘ an Ounce ; Compound Piony-Water,
 ‘ two Drams : mix and make a Potion,
 ‘ to be given early in the Morning.

‘ Strain’d

‘ Strain’d Galbanum, three Drams ;
 ‘ Powder of Nutmeg, one Dram :
 ‘ mix them together, and spread upon
 ‘ Leather, to be applied to the Soles
 ‘ of the Feet.’

December the last, I order’d the
 Purging Potion to be repeated, and
 that she should go on with the Bolus
 and Infusion : The Distress in the
 Night continued, but the Convulsions
 in her Nerves abated ; so I order’d,
 that during the Time of those Pa-
 roxisms, she should frequently take a
 Spoonful of the following Mixture ;
 and that a Plaster of strain’d Galbanum
 should be applied to her Navel ; and
 that the Plasters to her Feet should be
 renewed.

‘ Asa Fœtida, two Scruples ; Rue
 ‘ and Pennyroyal Water, of each four
 ‘ Ounces ; Compound Piony-Water,
 ‘ an Ounce ; Compound Spirit of La-
 ‘ vender, a Dram ; fine Sugar, half
 ‘ an

‘ an Ounce : mix them well together
 ‘ in a Mortar.’

January the third, she was much better every way ; I then order’d
 ‘ three Grains of *Assa Fœtida*, and
 ‘ one Drop of Oil of *Rosemary* to
 ‘ be added to each Bolus.’

In this Method she continued to the end of *January*, sensibly mending every Day ; I then order’d that she should take the Bolus and Infusion but three times a Day, which she continued to do till the end of *February*.

By that time she was as well as ever she was in her whole Life ; she could walk and speak perfectly well ; she could not only feed herself ; but sew for her Diversion.

For Security sake, I order’d the continuance of the Bolus and Infusion, Night and Morning, till the End of *April*, which was readily complied with.

She continues perfectly well, without the least Appearance, that ever she had so long labour'd under such a terrible Illness.

I was in *March* last called to a Gentleman, who was in as distressed a Condition as a human Creature could possibly be labouring under a Complication of Distempers, one of which was a Convulsive Asthma, which was so grievous to him, that he told me he had not been able to keep his Bed for a whole Night together, of three Months ; and sometimes for several Nights together, not to be able to lie down in his Bed at all, but to sit up with Windows open upon him.

I shall not trouble you with his other Circumstances, which were very grievous (from all which he is very well got over) but only give an account what Mistletoe did in the Cure of his Asthma.

I order'd him to drink a large Draught of the following Emulsion every

every Night before he went to Bed, and at times to drink the whole Bottle before he rose, if Sleep did not prevent it.

Helmont, I remember, calls the convulsive Asthma *Caducus Pulmonum*, which coming into my Mind, occasion'd my giving him this Medicine.

‘ I order'd four Ounces of bruis'd
 ‘ Mistletoe to be infus'd in a Quart
 ‘ of boyling Water for an Hour,
 ‘ then to be strain'd out, when perfectly cold to add half a Pint of
 ‘ *Lisbon* White - wine ; afterwards,
 ‘ with two Ounces of blancht Almonds to make an Emulsion, and
 ‘ to be sweetned with a sufficient
 ‘ quantity of fine Sugar.’

To the best of my remembrance he never had one Fit of the Asthma afterwards.

But observe what a quantity of Mistletoe he took every Night, even

as much as could be got out of four Ounces by Infusion in Water.

Tho' I have observ'd before, that now it evidently appears to me, that the most active Part of the Mistletoe consists in its Resin, which is only to be extracted with Spirit of Wine ; yet it not being so rugged a harsh Body as the Bark is, the Resin being envelop'd in a slimy Mucilage, it will, by being infus'd in Water, part with some proportion of its Resin, which the Bark will not ; and, for ought I know, its Mucilage may be of great Use in many Cases, especially in young Children, to obtund the Acrimony of the Bile, which is apt to gripe them, and so the Powder may be better for them, than given any other way : But this must be left to Time and further Experience.

What I have hitherto done, till very lately, has been by the means of the Powder and Infusion, and great things they are. If by the use of
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the Tincture I shall be inabled to make a farther Progress, the World may expect to be inform'd of it in due time. It's but a few Weeks that I have been Master of the Tincture, but I already see that great things may be expected from it.

What I have observ'd, as to the Quantities the Gentleman before-mention'd took every Night, brings to my Mind what I often thought of, which is, that I believe many noble Medicines are laid aside as useles, for want of having been given in due Quantities.

In recent Epilepsies, and ordinary Convulsions, which are Diseases that were formerly wont to give me great Uneasiness, especially the Epileptical ones; being conscious to myself, from the most careful Observation, that there was little Prospect of getting the Mastery of them. I now look upon them as little more formidable than a Quartan Ague; tho

tho in their outward Appearance and real Nature much more terrible.

The Cases just now recited are sufficient to demonstrate to the World, that common Mistletoe is a great Medicine, and highly to be esteem'd. As for Mistletoe of the Oak, I have never yet seen any.

Those of the Antients, that were Men of Virtue and Compassion, whenever they had any thing to communicate to the World that might be of publick Advantage, always did it in the known and common Language: And as I design this for the common Good, were I able to write Latin in as elegant a Stile as *Cicero* did, that should not induce me to send it abroad in any other way, than in the homely manner in which it is done.

I have turned over many Books, since I publish'd the first part of this *Dissertation*, to see whether I could procure any farther light into the natural
History

History of this wonderful Plant, but at present see no Cause to retract what I have there advanced, nor indeed to add any thing, or very little.

Johannes Baubinus has treated more copiously of it, than any of the Moderns I have read. *Scaliger*, in his way, has treated it very subtly, but I think advances nothing but Paradoxes. To be short, there is no one that takes notice of it, except *Cardan*, but thinks there is something very extraordinary in it; yet the *Druids* alone, tho they did not explain themselves, seem to be the only Persons who understood its real Worth.

In other Trees that are propogated, either by Grafting or Inoculating, the Grafts or Buds seem to become of the very same Substance with the Stock into which they are inserted. But with Mistletoe its quite otherwise, as appears plainly to the naked Eye, which I can shew to any one.

I have it from *Dr. Willis*, that it was the earnest Wish of the great *Crato*, that a Specifick for the Cure of the Epilepsy might be discover'd before he died.

I do verily and indeed think, from the Tryals I have made in a Multitude of Cases, besides those publish'd, that Mistletoe is in reality a Specifick for the Cure of Epilepsies and convulsive Diseases.

Why it should be so, I can as easily account for, from the Hypothesis of *Dr. Willis*, as from that of *Marcus Marci*.

Whilst I was writing this, I was called to a Gentleman in a Fever, that they said was dying, and indeed he appear'd so to be; he had a trembling Pulse, clammy cold Sweats, with a Convulsion of the Tendons, and a Faultring in his Speech, that he was scarce able to express himself so as to be understood. I gave him the Mistletoe in Powder, mix'd with Cochineal and
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the Tincture in a Julep, both in large quantities. This was late at night, and next Morning he was recover'd to my amazement. I verily believe the Patient would have died that Night, had it not been for the Mistletoe; not to disparage Cochineal, which is a Medicine highly to be valued, and beyond all others that I ever saw, in Fevers of all sorts. But of this perhaps another time.

I desire for the future, that the Bark of the large Stalks, may be dried and powder'd with the Leaves, Berries, and small Twigs, as being equal to, if not superior in Virtue to either of them; but all together are best.

What there is particular in the woody part, I cannot at present tell, but have hitherto order'd it to be bruised promiscuously with the rest for Infusions.

I have not yet dar'd to rob the Mistletoe of but few of its Berries; but from some Observations I have

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made

made of them, I am inclin'd to think, that they are the greatest Restorers of decay'd Nature, swallow'd whole as they are, either green or dry, and a Draught of generous Wine to be drank after them; ten or a dozen every Night at going to Bed.

The greatest Article of Convulsions in the Bills of Mortality, I take to be of Infant Children: The way of giving them the Mistletoe is as follows; and most prodigious things I have seen done by it.

‘ Take of the Powder of Mistle-
 ‘ toe, as before directed, two Drams;
 ‘ Rue and Pennyroyal Water, of each
 ‘ two Ounces; Syrup of Pionies, half
 ‘ an Ounce: Mix them together, and
 ‘ give half a Spoonful, as oft as you
 ‘ can get them to take it.’

If they cannot be got to take it that way, mix a little of the Powder with some Panada.

If they are exceedingly grip'd and loose, apply also the following Plaster to their Bellies.

‘ Venice-Treacle, and Oil of Nutmegs by Expression, of each two Drams : mix them together, and spread upon soft Leather.’

If the Looseness continues, give the following Glister.

‘ Diascordium made with Diacordium instead of Honey, a Dram ; Powder of Mistletoe, half a Dram ; Pennyroyal Water, three or four Ounces : mix and make a Glister, which give warm.’

If they are bound, which they rarely are when they are convuls'd, give them a little Manna in some of the Mistletoe Julep, and if that don't open them, the following Glister.

‘ Manna, two Drams ; Mistletoe-
 ‘ Powder, half a Dram ; Pennyroyal
 ‘ Water, three Ounces ; Oil of Ca-
 ‘ momile, two Drams : mix and
 ‘ make a Glister.’

To Children of about ten Years of Age may be given half a Dram of the Powder, with three Grains of Asfa Fœtida, three times a Day, and a Draught of the Infusion afterwards.

Men and Women may take a Dram of the Powder, with five or six Grains of Asfa Fœtida, three or four times a day, according to the Urgency of the Case ; drinking a large Draught of Infusion afterwards, and may drink a Draught of the Infusion betwixt whiles : Now the stronger the Infusion is made, the better ; so that it be not made so strong as to nauseate the Stomach.

Having for a great many Years seen the most convincing Proofs of the wonderful Effects of the Mistletoe itself, being

being only gather'd in a proper time, and carefully dried and powder'd; It never enter'd into my Head to make any Tryals about extracting a Tincture from it, tho I had long ago been convinced that its chief Excellence consisted in its Birdlime, which is a most wonderful, tractable, soft Resin, and I knew dissolvable in Spirit of Wine; nay, I have given the Birdlime alone, join'd with some proper Powder to make it into Pills, in a deplorable Case, with Success.

But since the Tincture has been prepar'd, which is but a few Weeks since, I have reason to believe, from some Observations that I have already made, that in particular extraordinary Cases, join'd with a small Proportion of Tincture of *Assa Fœtida*, that it will take place in a shorter time than the Powder will do; but I shall not give an Account of the Method how to extract the Tincture, till I have had a larger Experience of it.

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However, both it, and the Mistletoe gather'd in due time, and carefully dried and powder'd, may be had at Mr. *Shorthose's*, an Apothecary over against *Hungerford* Market, in the *Strand*, and at Mr. *Riddle's* an Apothecary in *Villars* Street, *York-Buildings*.

About the beginning of the last *October*, I was sent for to a Child of about eight Years of Age, who had the *St. Vitis's* Dance.

She neither could stand nor sit ; her Hands were in continual Motion, that she could not feed herself, nor hold any thing in them ; her Head was continually thrown from side to side, or backwards or forwards ; and her Speech entirely lost.

This was a recent Case, of not above a Month's standing, and by the beginning of this present *November* e was made perfectly well.

To prevent Mistakes, I shall here again give an account how People may furnish themselves with Powder of Mistletoe

Mistletoe for the whole Year in Perfection.

Take of the Leaves, Berries, tender Twigs, and the Bark of the large Branches, gather'd at the latter end of *December*. Let them be dried over a Baker's Oven, which is a mild, constant and gentle Heat. When it is perfectly dried, let it be put into a Glass Jar, which must be cover'd with Leather, or stop't with a Cork, and kept in a warm and dry Place, that it may not grow mouldy.

Observe, that its being scorch'd in drying, or growing mouldy after it has been carefully dried, renders it of no value.

The Stalks that are preserv'd for Infusion, must, after they are dried, be carefully kept in a warm and dry Place.

Since this is come out in due time, I hope, for the future, that I shall find every Apothecary's Shop furnish'd with Mistletoe, gather'd at the proper Season,

son, and dry'd and powder'd according to Direction.

However, if what I have said be disregarded, and it prove otherwise, I have before given an account where People may furnish themselves with it.

I had it in my thoughts to have publish'd at this time, my Observations upon the noble Qualities of some other simple Remedies, viz. Cochineal, *Virginian* Snake-Root, and the very common Herb *Prunella*; but want of leisure has prevented it.

F I N I S

